

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): Method for the preparation of Mo-V-Te-Nb catalyst on a carrier comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing a slurry comprising ionic species of Mo, V, Te and Nb and a ceramic inert carrier by combining the inert carrier in the form of a substantially dry powder with one or more solutions comprising the above metal ionic species;
- b) drying of the slurry to obtain a particulate product;
- c) precalcining the dried particulate product at a temperature of 150-350°C in an oxygen-containing atmosphere;
- d) calcining the precalcined dried particulate product at a temperature of 350-750°C in an inert atmosphere to obtain the catalyst.

Claim 2. (Original): Method according to claim 1 wherein the drying is performed by spray-drying, the spray-drying preferably being performed at a temperature of 100-250°C.

Claim 3. (Previously presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the calcining is conducted in an argon or nitrogen atmosphere.

Claim 4. (Previously presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic inert carrier has a mean particle size of 0.1-100 nm.

Claim 5. (Previously presented): Method according to claim 1, comprising an additional step e) of processing the catalyst of step d) to catalyst particles having a size of 0.1-5 mm.

Claim 6. (Previously presented): Mo-V-Te-Nb catalyst obtainable by the method of claim 1.

Claims 7 -- 12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (New): Catalyst according to claim 6, wherein the ceramic inert carrier is silica.

Claim 14. (New): Method for the preparation of acrylic acid comprising the oxidation of propane with an oxygen source comprising air, oxygen-rich air or pure oxygen in the presence of the catalyst according to claim 6.

Claim 15. (New): Method according to claim 14, wherein the oxidation is conducted in a fixed bed reactor.

Claim 16. (New): Method for the preparation of acrylonitrile comprising conducting a catalytic ammoxidation of propane in the presence of ammonia in addition to an oxygen source comprising air, oxygen-rich air or pure oxygen in the presence of the catalyst according to claim 6.

Claim 17. (New): Method according to claim 16, wherein the ammoxidation is conducted in a fixed bed reactor.

Claim 18. (New): Method for the preparation of methacrylic acid comprising the oxidation of isobutane with an oxygen source comprising air, oxygen-rich air or pure oxygen in the presence of the catalyst according to claim 6.

Claim 19. (New): Method according to claim 18, wherein the oxidation is conducted in a fixed bed reactor.

Claim 20. (New) Method for the preparation of methacrylonitrile comprising conducting a catalytic ammoxidation of isobutane in the presence of ammonia in addition to an oxygen source comprising air, oxygen-rich air or pure oxygen in the presence of the catalyst according to claim 6.

Claim 21. (New) Method according to claim 20, wherein the ammoxidation is conducted in a fixed bed reactor.

Claim 22. (New): Method for the preparation of acetic acid comprising the oxidation of ethane with an oxygen source comprising air, oxygen-rich air or pure oxygen in the presence of the catalyst according to claim 6.

Claim 23. (New): Method according to claim 22, wherein the oxidation is conducted in a fixed bed reactor.